

SUBJECT: Disposition of Remains Report

REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national law of the Republic of The Philippines, Chapter XXI of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines - Presidential Decree 856 (<http://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Chapter%2021.%20Disposal%20of%20Dead%20Persons.pdf>).

Part I. Republic of the Philippines

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

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Phone: +011 (632) 301-2000

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After Hours Phone: +011 (632) 301-2000 ext. 0

[Philippine Consular Information Sheet](#)

[Register With the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions in the Philippines and Religious Services available to visitors

The religious composition of the Philippines remains predominantly Catholic. Despite this, religious freedom is exercised and is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Philippines. Religious services are based on practices shaped by the variety of religions and cultures in the Philippines.

Traditionally, a wake or a vigil is held from three days to a week while awaiting the final disposition of remains. This is a common Philippine practice, where the deceased's remains are displayed in a chapel in an urban setting or at the family's home in a rural setting.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country

METRO MANILA

1. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS

12 G. Araneta Avenue

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Tel. No.: (011-63-2) 713-1111 or 713-9053 to 54

Fax No.: (011-63-2) 715-1031

Website: www.arlington.ph

Contact Person: Rafael S. Jose, President
Director: Ferdinand Napiza

2. DAYAO FUNERAL HOME

G. Tuazon, Corner Batanes St.
Galas, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (011-63-2) 781-3688; (011-63-2) 740-2683
Telefax: (011-63-2) 781-3688
Email: dayaofuneralhome@hotmail.com; ambodayao@hotmail.com
Contact Person: Pablo Dayao

3. LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS & CREMATORIUM

EDSA cor. Bernardino Street
Guadalupe, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-2) 895-1011 to 18
Fax No.: (011-63-2) 895-8868 or (011-63-2) 896-3588
Website: www.loyolachapels.com
Contact Person: Epifania Cartagena, Department Manager

4. RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES

438 Cementina Street
Pasay City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-2) 843-0756; (011-63-2) 831-0515; (011-63-2) 831-1204
Fax No.: (011-63-2) 831-9967
Contact Person: Rodel Forbes, Cell: (011-63-916) 796-7505

5. ST. PETER MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

St. Peter Life Plan, Inc. Building
No. 02 cor. West 4th Street
Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No.: (011-63-2) 371-7757
Fax No.: (011-63-2) 372-3387
Website: www.stpeter.com.ph
Contact Person: Gigi del Rosario, Group Chapel Manager

CAGAYAN DE ORO

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES

Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-88) 856-2420; (011-63-8822) 714-582
Website: www.cosmopolitanfuneral.com.ph
Contact Person: Thamas Sorronda, Branch Manager

CEBU

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad
Mandaue City, Cebu Philippines
Tel No.: (011-63-32) 346-2543 / (011-63-32) 346-2601
Contact Person: Jun Condrado or Oliver Gallardo

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES

16-18 Junquera Street
Cebu City, Cebu
Tel No.: (011-63-32) 255-2652; (011-63-32) 256-0491 to 93
Fax: (011-63-32) 255-2652
Website: www.cosmopolitanfuneral.com.ph
Contact Person: Amelito Gonzales, Funeral Director

DAVAO**COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES**

J. Camus Extension corner Jose Abad Santos Street
Davao City, Davao del Sur
Tel No.: (011-63-82) 225-1031; (011-63-82) 268-2572; (011-63-82) 227-1201
Fax No.: (011-63-82) 227-1258
Contact Person: Rony Ng, Branch Manager, Cell: (011-63-917) 320-0369

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.**

27th Lacson St., Mandalagan
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100
Tel No.: (011-63-34) 433-7132; 433-0006 433-0007
Telefax: (011-63-34) 433-0978
Cell: (011-63-908) 880-9668
Contact Person: Delma T. Decolongon, Operations & Marketing Manager

NEGROS ORIENTAL**ETERNA FUNERAL HOME**

Daro, Dumaguete City
Negros Oriental
Tel Nos.: (011-63-35) 225-5271; (011-63-35) 225-1555
Email: eternadumaguete@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Don Miguel Teves, Cell: (011-63-925) 310-9903

PAMPANGA**INDIONGCO'S FUNERAL PARLOR**

438 Entierro Street
Angeles City, Pampanga
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-45) 888-5367; (011-63-45) 888-0750; (011-63-45) 322-8541
Cell: (011-63-927) 756-0779
Contact Person: Cristina Indiongco, General Manager

LA PIETA MEMORIAL CHAPELS AND CREMATORIUM

Diversion Rd., McArthur Highway
Pulung-bulo, Angeles City
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-45) 888-0465; (011-63-45) 322-5451
Cell: (011-63-918) 648-6595
Telefax: (011-63-45) 322-4846

Email: lapietamemorialparkandchapels@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Florante C. Timbol, President and Owner

MPS MEMORIAL HOMES

1984 Burgos St., Brgy. Sto Cristo
Angeles City, Pampanga
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-45) 888-5842; (011-63-45) 888-3396
Telefax: (011-63-45) 888-5842
Email: pmc_ac@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Philip Samson, cell: (011-63-999) 999-0130

SURIGAO

NILO FUNERAL HOME

Km 2., Surigao City, Surigao del Norte 8400
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-86) 826-0463; (011-63-86) 231-7030
Telefax: (011-63-86) 826-0463
Cell: (011-63-998) 853-1056 or (011-63-908) 896-1058
Email: joenil_14@yahoo.com.ph
Contact Person: Joenil B. Aldonza or Alma Aldonza, Proprietors

ZAMBALES

FUNERARIA FLORESCO

1-B Otero Avenue, Mabayan
Olongapo City, Zambales
Tel. Nos.: (011-63-47) 222-5115; (011-63-47) 224-5509
Contact Person: Ms. Margie Flores, Proprietor or Bien Mila, Funeral Director
E-mail: bien_maxxe@yahoo.com; flores_margie@yahoo.com

NOTE: Prices of services vary among the funeral homes.

Disclaimer: The U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

Part V. Profile of services available in the Philippines regarding preparation and shipment of remains

- a. Costs for funeral arrangements for a deceased American citizen are expensive and the estimated costs will fluctuate with inflation and exchange rates. Listed below are estimated costs of mortuary services in the Philippines. These estimated costs may vary depending on the specific circumstances and location of the deceased.

- The cost for preparation and burial in Manila - \$2,500.00
- The cost for cremation and disposition of ashes in Manila approximately \$2,500.00
- Preparation and air shipment of remains; Manila to U.S. - \$8,000.00
- Cremation and air shipment of ashes; Manila to U.S. - \$3,000.00

b. Specific facts

(1) Burial

The burial of remains in a city or municipal burial grounds and similar grounds like cemetery/memorial parks, etc. shall not be prohibited on account of race, nationality, religion or political persuasion.

There are various private and public cemeteries across the Philippines. Burial in a private cemetery may involve purchasing a plot of land and may be expensive. Burial in a public cemetery normally include a 5-year contract. If the contract is not renewed, the remains are exhumed and placed in a common grave, and the space is declared vacant for reoccupation.

The cost of burial of a dead person shall be borne by the nearest kin in the following order:

- i. The spouse;
- ii. The descendants in the nearest degree;
- iii. The ascendant in the nearest degree; and,
- iv. The brothers and sisters.

In the absence of the nearest kin above or if the kin is not financially capable of defraying the expenses, the cost shall be borne by the city or municipal government. Often times, these result in a pauper's burial or the burial of remains in a mass grave.

Every funeral shall be in keeping with the customs and traditions of the deceased and in accordance with the expressed wishes and religious beliefs of the deceased's provided it is in accordance with Philippine law.

(2) Embalming

Preparation of remains is carried out in accordance with the laws of and facilities available in the Philippines. In some cases, the services fall short of those expected in the United States. For instance, not all funeral homes have refrigeration facilities, thus remains need to be embalmed immediately to avoid decomposition.

Licensed embalmers shall practice embalming in accordance with Section 12 of Chapter XXI of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines.

(3) Cremation

Cremation is permitted by local law with the consent of the decedent's relatives. Crematoriums are mostly located in Metro Manila. However, there are a few cremation facilities located in other major cities/provinces in the Philippines such as Pampanga, Zambales, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Tarlac, Baguio, etc.

Remains cannot be cremated without a Philippine death certificate. Cremated remains must be reduced to the size of fine sand or ashes and packed in an urn or cremains container before they are turned over to the relatives of the deceased.

(4) Caskets and Containers

Local funeral homes normally have limited size range of caskets. As such, remains of U.S. citizens are placed in imported or custom built caskets, which are often more expensive.

When remains are transported out of the country, the remains should be appropriately prepared or cremated for shipment. It is then placed in a hermetically sealed casket, or urn in case of cremation, which is then placed in a suitable transportation box.

(5) Exportation/Repatriation

Embalming or cremation is required for shipment of remains. Repatriation of whole remains to the U.S. is generally expensive. The primary cost involves the air freight charges from Manila to the U.S. or home country, casket, sealing of the casket, funeral home services, documentation requirements, etc. Repatriation of cremated remains, on the other hand, is the cheaper option.

There are several funeral homes in the Philippines that provide adequate services for in-country and international shipment. Transfer of remains within the Philippines may be carried out by land, ferry/boat or through any major local airline that provides cargo services. Transfers can be arranged by the funeral home handling the interment/shipment arrangements.

(6) Documentation Requirements

According to Philippine law, no remains shall be buried or cremated without a Philippine death certificate. The death certificate must be issued by the attending government official or private physician. Deaths must be reported to the local health officer within 48 hours after death and the death certificate must be forwarded to the local civil registrar concerned within 30 days after death for registration.

Note: If there are outstanding bills with the hospital or funeral home, the concerned hospital or funeral home may refuse to release the death certificate, until all bills have been paid.

Documents required for shipment of remains:

- Death certificate;
- Transfer permit;
- Embalmer's certificate (for remains);
- Certificate of cremation (for ashes);
- Quarantine permit;
- Fumigation certificate;
- Exhumation of remains/permit, is applicable;
- Proof of U.S. citizenship;
- Mortuary Certificate from the Philippine Embassy/Consulate (if remains/ashes were from the U.S.)

(7) Exhumation

Permission to exhume remains of persons who died of causes other than dangerous communicable disease may be granted after such remains have been buried for a period of three (3) years. However, the remains of persons who died of a dangerous communicable disease shall be exhumed after a lapse of five (5) year burial period.

Exhumation may be permitted within a shorter period in special cases such as requested by the court, police, or agent of the National Bureau of Investigation in a medico legal case subject to the approval of the regional health director concerned.

Documents required for exhumation:

- Exhumation and transfer permits from the point of origin;
- Death certificate; and,
- Reburial permit at the place of reinterment.

(8) Autopsies

A post mortem is locally referred to as an autopsy or medico-legal.

Authorization to perform an autopsy is normally required from the next of kin. However, an autopsy may be performed without prior authority if an individual died a violent death or if the cause of death cannot be determined by medical authorities (i.e. if the individual was pronounced dead on arrival by hospital officials).

Officials authorized to perform autopsies are health officers, medical officers of law enforcement agencies (Philippine National Police and National

Bureau of Investigation), and members of the medical staff of accredited hospitals.

c. Deaths due to Unique/Special Circumstances

(1) Medico Legal Cases

If the local health officer who issues death certificate has reasons to believe or suspect that the cause of death was due to violence or crime, he shall notify immediately the authorities of the Philippine National Police of National Bureau of Investigation. In case the cause of death was due to violence or crime, the remains cannot be buried until permission is obtained from the provincial city prosecutor where the death occurred.

(2) Dangerous Communicable Disease

Remains are buried within 12 hours after death and shall not be taken to any place of public assembly. Only the adult members of the deceased's family will be permitted to attend the funeral. The remains should be placed in a durable, air tight and sealed casket. No permit will be granted for the transfer of such remains.

Classification of Dangerous Communicable Diseases:

- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)/ HIV Infection;
- Cholera;
- Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever;
- Hepatitis;
- Plague;
- Yellow Fever;
- Meningococcemia; and,
- Other dangerous communicable diseases that will be declared by the Department of Health.

(3) Unembalmed Remains

Unembalmed remains should be buried within 48 hours after death except when permitted by the local health authority for valid reasons such as flood, calamities and disasters provided that the cause of death was not due to dangerous communicable disease.

When there is a necessity for legal investigation, unembalmed remains cannot remain unburied for more than 72 hours regardless of the cause of death.

d. The local authority responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians is the Philippine Department of Health.